

# September E-Newsletter

Join us at the fourth annual *We Are Boston Gala: A Celebration of Boston's Diversity, Immigrant Heritage and Contributions*, honoring world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and other outstanding leaders on October 6, 2009.

## **Boston Convention and Exhibition Center**

415 Summer Street

Boston, MA 02210

5:45 PM

Click [here](#) to see detailed invitation.

## **SPOTLIGHT: ENGLISH FOR NEW BOSTONIANS (ENB)**

**One of the key programs WAB supports.**

### **ENB Portraits of Success**



*ENB* is a strategic, public – private – community partnership initiated by the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians established in 2001. This citywide initiative focuses the attention and resources of Boston's leaders and immigrant communities on meeting the needs of English For Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in the city of Boston. *ENB* currently funds 22 programs across the city and allow one thousand New Bostonians to access English Classes.

Currently 46,000 residents or 8% of the city's population do not speak English well. Without English, New Bostonians are unable to fully participate in the economic, civic and social life of Boston. Studies show a growing dependence on immigrant labor throughout Massachusetts and nationally. By 2014, 40% of the labor force nationally will be made up of immigrants. Studies also show job trends requiring an increasingly skilled labor force with higher education and English skills. However, too many New Bostonians are not prepared for this changing job market.

With a very high demand for English Classes in the Boston area, the current waitlist is anywhere between 6 months up to 3 years. In regular surveys and focus groups conducted by the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, the lack of ESOL classes has been consistently identified as a key barrier by diverse communities. English For New Bostonians was initiated to respond to this need. Helping New Bostonians to learn English does not only help New Bostonians to prosper and thrive, it is vital to the prosperity and common wealth of our city and state as dependence on immigrant labor continues to grow. Students at *ENB* programs have become key contributors in their jobs, and community.

For more information, call:

Mayor's Office of New Bostonians: 617-635-2980

First Literacy: 617-482-3336

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition: 617-350-5480

The English for New Bostonians Portraits of Success series highlights the achievements of students that are using English to live up to their potential, and the programs that help them do so.

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### **ESOL Helps Pave Path to Citizenship**

Learning English helps lead a student down the path to citizenship

### **English Skills Pay Off for Health Care Worker, Union and Patients**

Through ESOL classes offered by his union, SEIU 1199, Jean Bellevue has improved his English language skills, allowing him to not only interact with nursing facility patients but also helping him participate in his union bargaining committee as the representative elected by kitchen staff.

### **ESOL Program Strengthens Child-Family-School Partnership**

Learning English helps a father participate in the education of his children.

### **SILENT AUCTION AT 2009 GALA**

We Are Boston is kicking off its first Silent Auction at the 2009 gala on October 6th. Our dedicated Silent Auction committee members are working hard to compile a wide range of auction items. Our category of items ranges from travel, entertainment, sports, education, restaurants and leisure. For a sneak peek at some of this year's silent auction items, [click here](#).

If you would like to donate any items or join our silent auction committee, please contact Candice Trzcinka at [candice88@gmail.com](mailto:candice88@gmail.com). All proceeds will go to ESOL classes or immigrant programs.

### **WE ARE BOSTON TICKET INFORMATION**

This year, the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians is thrilled to offer heritage tables where guests are encouraged to showcase their culture through their ethnic dress attire.

**Individual Ticket: \$100**

**Individual Sponsor: \$500**

**Table Sponsor: \$1,000 per table. Each table seats ten guests**

**Heritage Table Sponsor: \$1,000 per table. Each table seats ten guests**

Please make checks payable to:

Boston Educational Development Foundation

Mayor's Office of New Bostonians

Boston City Hall, Room 803

Boston, MA 02201

*Proceeds from the We Are Boston Gala support programs vital to immigrant communities. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law under IRS code 501(c)(3)*